

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 7

DATE 2-19-07

BILL NO. SB 458

February 19, 2007

Dear Senator Ryan,

Please vote against Senate Bill 458, which would require home school students to register with the county superintendent. Montana has the best home school laws in the nation. We do not want to change them. This bill, if passed, would increase the duties of the county superintendent, who already has a long list of duties concerning the running of public schools, such as lists of trustees, budgets and assets. Public school students register so they can know who their students are and so they can collect the state funds for their students allowing them to budget for the school year. The law already requires the notification of the county superintendent by home school parents. Public schools should not receive state funds for home school students. Having a deadline for registering would also be restricting as some parents decide to home school in the middle of the year or just before the beginning of school.

I have effectively home educated my six children. My daughter is now married and expecting her first child. She is excited about the opportunity to home school. I want her to have that freedom.

There is overwhelming evidence that home schooling is a very good form of education. So what is the need of registering? Is it to give the public school system state funds for children they do not teach? Do they want to pay parents for teaching their children at home? Is it so they can control home schools? I want none of these.

Your continued effort to pass negative home school legislation wearies me. In 2005, there was a strong outcry against your bill. Now in 2007, you are trying again. Quite frankly, I think you are wasting your time, your fellow legislators time and mine by introducing these bills.

Sincerely,

Sharon Grosse
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